

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

November 20, 2007

Chairman Earl Old Person
Blackfeet Nation
PO Box 850
Browning, MT 59417

Dear Chairman Old Person:

I am pleased to send you a copy of the Medicaid family planning waiver Montana is planning to submit for approval to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). I designated The Department of Public Health and Human Services to draft the waiver to expand family planning services to Montana women living at or below 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

This is an opportunity to seek a waiver from the federal government that will provide important family planning services to many Montana women and I am honored to guide its development and that of the expanded services it will provide. CMS has made it clear that States must notify Tribal Governments at least 60 days prior to the anticipated submission of a waiver request. I, too, am committed to an extensive public process. We must be assured that all Montanans have had an opportunity to see the waiver proposal, understand the concepts, and offer their comments.

I'm summarizing here the highlights of the family planning waiver:

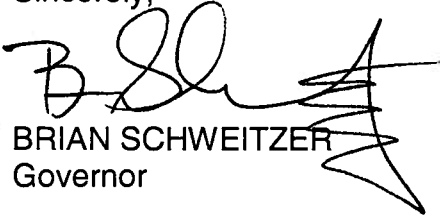
- **Target population:** Women up to age 50 living below 185 percent of the federal poverty level who have no health care coverage for family planning services.
- **Eligibility process:** Income will be self-reported, no asset test will be applied, and eligibility will be redetermined annually. Applicants will supply proof of US citizenship.
- **Covered services:** Family planning related services only will be covered and include contraceptive supplies, office visits, laboratory services, testing and treatment of STDs, and HPV vaccine.
- **Providers:** Any provider who wishes to render family planning services and who is eligible to be an enrolled Medicaid provider may participate. Reimbursement will be made on a fee-for-service basis.
- **Outcomes:** The family planning waiver will decrease the number of births by 1.5 percent per 1,000 participants by the second year of the waiver. Cost savings over the 5 year life of the waiver will be \$11.8 million in total funds.

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DPHHS has an electronic copy of the family planning waiver, named the Montana Family Planning Project, on its website at www.dphhs.mt.gov. You can review the waiver proposal at this website, submit questions and comments, view other documents and correspondence regarding the 1115 family planning waiver, and find out about public forums or meetings related to the waiver project.

I invite your comments and questions on the Montana Family Planning Project. I encourage you to provide written comments or questions to DPHHS within 30 days of the date of this letter. Please direct comments to Mary Noel, Chief, Medicaid Managed Care Bureau, manoel@mt.gov, or PO Box 202951, Helena MT 59620, or contact her at (406) 444-4146 if you would like to arrange a date and time for her to travel to your location for a discussion of the family planning waiver proposal. Thank you and we look forward to working with you on this endeavor.

Sincerely,



BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor